

## February 10

**1822** St. Louis Merchant and philanthropist Richard Scruggs was born. In March 1850, he and a partner founded the McClelland and Scruggs Dry Goods House. The firm evolved into Scruggs, Vandervoort and Barney, a St. Louis institution until 1967.

**1835** According to the *Missouri Republican*, the temperature here hit 22 below zero. The National Weather Service did not begin keeping records here until 1875.

**1843** The city council accepted a gift of land from Mrs. Julia Cerre Soulard. The city had to agree that the land would always be used for a public market. Julia's husband, Antoine, had surveyed the area for the Spanish Government. After his death, she fought a long legal battle over her claim to the land. She also donated two lots to Bishop Rosati. St. Vincent DePaul Church would be built there in 1843.

**1901** The Traveler's Protective Association announced plans to build a permanent \$150,000 headquarters here. The building would serve as the site of the Traveling Men's National Organization. It marked the first step by any organization towards a building for the World's Fair.

**1904** The United States House passed a bill granting a \$4 million loan for the upcoming World's Fair here. Quick approval was expected in the Senate for the loan, which was to be repaid by fair gate receipts.

**1927** A \$300,000 fire destroyed the ILLMO Hotel, the largest in East St. Louis. No lives were lost as the four-story building went up in flames. Passersby alerted the 75 guests, and got them to safety.

**1932** Residents of the "Hooverville" shantytown on the riverfront announced plans for 200 "permanent" homes. They were to measure ten by twelve feet and cost \$25, including furnishings. Members of the colony planned to build the homes, along with a barbershop, commissary and a power plant using donated materials. The shantytown sprang up below the Free Bridge. (Later the Macarthur)

**1933** A crowd of several hundred watched as police broke up a demonstration outside the building housing the German Consulate at 408 Pine. Police described the protestors as "Communist sympathizers". They were protesting against the new Chancellor of Germany, Adolf Hitler.

**1946** Celebrating its 50th anniversary, the Forest Park Highlands Amusement Park announced a \$500,000 renovation. A new entrance would be built, new rides would be installed, and the grounds were to be covered in concrete. (The site is now Forest Park Community College)

**1954** "This is Cinerama" made its St. Louis debut at the Ambassador Theatre. The Ambassador boasted the largest Cinerama screen in the nation. The film gave the

audience the sense that they were really riding in a roller coaster, a speedboat or similar experiences. Cinerama lasted until 1959.

**1956** Residents near Lambert Field were upset after the fourth military plane crash in seven months. In the latest incident, a Marine Corps jet went down near the Airline Drive-Inn, skidded across Natural Bridge road and came to a halt near the airport. The pilot was slightly hurt.

**1959** Just after midnight, a tornado ripped through Warson Woods, Glendale, Rock Hill and Maplewood. The twister knocked the Channel Two tower onto an apartment building on Oakview. It took out one of the twin towers of the Arena, and tore off a chunk of the roof. The tornado bent the Ferris Wheel at the Forest Park Highlands in half. The worst damage was in the area around Boyle and Olive. 21 people died, over a thousand buildings were damaged, and more than 2,000 people were homeless.

**1966** Plans were announced for a 20-story building at the corner of Third and Market. The building was to be the home of KMOX TV and radio. Before the Gateway Tower was completed, KMOX TV was located at 1215 Cole. KMOX radio was located at 1144 Hampton.

**1970** Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, here for a Republican fundraiser, denounced youthful dissenters. He said he would trade "the whole damned zoo for a single platoon of the kind of young Americans" he saw in Vietnam. About 200 anti-war protestors gathered outside the Arena during the speech.

**1970** The replica of the Santa Maria was sold to Fox Industries of Madison, Illinois for one dollar. Brought here from the 1964 World's Fair by Mayor Cervantes, the Santa Maria broke loose from its moorings and sank in a thunderstorm in June 1969. Fox hoped to restore the ship and return it to the riverfront.

**1971** General Dynamics announced plans to move its headquarters from New York to St. Louis. Company officials cited our excellent location and reasonably priced facilities. The headquarters would be moved to Falls Church, Virginia in 1992.

**1976** David W. Leeker, the son of the president of the So-Good Potato Chip Company, was shot to death while staying overnight at the Busch Mansion at Grant's Farm. Peter Busch, the 20-year-old son of August Busch Junior pleaded guilty to manslaughter. No one doubted that the shooting was accidental, but many questions remained unanswered.

**1982** Ozzie Smith became a Redbird. The Cardinals traded the controversial Garry Templeton to the Padres for the acrobatic shortstop. Templeton had made an obscene gesture to fans at Busch Stadium in August 1981. Whitey Herzog yanked Templeton into the dugout and Gussie Busch gave direct orders that he be traded.

**1989** Hall of Fame Blues broadcaster Dan Kelly died after a five-month battle with cancer. He was 52. Broadcasting runs in the Kelly family. His oldest son John also did

Blues broadcasts for a season before moving on to Florida and Colorado. His younger son, Danny was also a Blues announcer for two seasons before moving away to handle TV duties for the Columbus Blue Jackets.

**1999** The fate of the Arena was sealed. Mayor Clarence Harmon had announced a deal to turn the site into a suburban-style office park. Demolition was set for the last weekend in February.